

50X1

Table of Contents

West Germany

50X1

	<u>Page</u>
A. General	1
B. Environmental factors affecting health	2
1. Topography and climate	2
2. Socio-economic pattern	2
4. Nutrition	3
c. Food sanitation, storage, technology	3
C. Diseases	3
2. Diseases of animals	3
a. Prevalent animal diseases	3
(1) Foot-and-mouth disease	3
(2) Bovine tuberculosis	4
(3) Brucellosis	4
(4) Rabies	5
(5) Borna disease	5
(6) Hog cholera	6
(7) Infertility diseases	6
b. Other important animal diseases	6
D. Veterinary medical organization and administration	6
1. Civilian	6
a. Organization	6
b. Legal controls	8
(1) Licensure	8
(2) Quarantine	9
(3) Inspection	9
c. Professional veterinary medical organization	10
2. Military (veterinary)	11
E. Veterinary manpower	11
F. Veterinary medical facilities	12

50X1

50X1

	<u>Page</u>
G. Veterinary medical supplies and materials	13
H. Reference data	14

50X1

Figure 1: Organization of Veterinary Services, West Germany - 1960.

Figure 2: Organization of the Union of Veterinary Chambers of West Germany (Deutsche Tierärzteschaft) - 1960

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West Germany

A. General

West Germany's veterinary services, during the past decade, have contributed significantly to improved animal health and hygienic processing and distribution of livestock products. Faced with a serious post-war deficit of livestock products and an animal population grossly affected by several zoonotic diseases, veterinary authorities immediately took steps to rehabilitate damaged facilities, organize methodical disease control measures and institute strict sanitary control over marketing procedures.

German livestock producers readily accept the government policies to improve animal health and the intensive sanitary control over livestock products is generally well supported.

The most important veterinary public health problems are those concerned with further reducing the incidence of bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and rabies, as well as in controlling salmonellosis and other food-borne infections. Progress is being made in all these fields; however, rabies continues to be a somewhat serious problem.

Rehabilitation of war damaged veterinary research and educational installations, as well as new construction and equipping of modern facilities, have been extensive.

West Germany has an adequate number of excellently trained veterinary personnel and is providing educational requirements for specialized training. The veterinary services are effectively complemented through extensive use of well trained technical lay personnel.

50X1

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Functional veterinary public health and sanitation measures are carried out by state and local authorities. The policies and programs are, however, under firm centralized control of the Federal Veterinary Administration.

Funds for veterinary public health services are derived from both federal and state sources. No complete data are available on the funds available for this specific activity but progressive improvement in veterinary public health problems indicates effective support. Considerable U.S. Marshall Plan aid in immediate post-World War II years is credited with hastening rehabilitation of veterinary laboratory and slaughterhouse facilities.

West German veterinary personnel are active participants in international scientific meetings and many well-qualified veterinary researchers are members of international expert committees on zoonotic disease or act as consultants to international public health or agricultural organizations. 1/ 2/ 8/ 15/ 18/ 24/ 32/

B. Environmental factors affecting health

1. Topography and climate -- Land resources limit livestock production, but through effective utilization of pastures and supplemental feeding Germany has been able to produce over 90 percent of her domestic requirements for meat and other livestock products. A relatively high concentration of animals as well as winter confinement contribute to susceptibility to diseases, particularly respiratory infections, but the effects of such diseases are offset by good management and accessibility of herds for health attention. 29/ 30/

2. Socio-economic pattern -- Wartime neglect or interruption of normal services, as well as the spread of disease resulting from military activities, caused serious

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increases in animal disease incidence. However, rapid economic recovery, availability of a well trained veterinary force and health conscious livestock raisers have enabled West Germany to make progressive reductions in the more serious animal diseases. 1/ 22/

4. Nutrition

a. Food sanitation, storage, technology -- Significant progress has been made in renovation and new construction of slaughterhouses, food processing establishments, refrigeration facilities and transport equipment for livestock products. Food sanitation throughout distribution channels is excellent in urban areas and steadily improving in rural communities. Although occasional outbreaks of food poisoning or meat-borne enteric infections do occur in Germany, incidence of such conditions has declined in recent years. Further improvement in food sanitation may be expected as current educational efforts toward elimination of substandard markets and marketing procedures become effective. 1/ 2/ 8/ 10/ 11/ 12/ 18/

C. Diseases

2. Diseases of animals

a. Prevalent animal diseases -- Unsettled wartime conditions and consequent frequent suspension of routine veterinary activities resulted in widespread increases in animal diseases, many of which were serious public health threats. Prompt postwar Marshall Plan aid and subsequent rapid economic recovery enabled West Germany to re-institute control measures for those diseases most significant from a public health or economic standpoint. 1/ 2/ 8/ 16/ 19/

(1) Foot-and-mouth disease -- Extensive vaccination and strict sanitary measures, followed in recent months by slaughter of the few infected herds, has brought foot-and-mouth disease under effective control. The number of outbreaks

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currently occurring are small and intensive vaccination around disease foci restrict its spread. The Federal government has subsidized state (Lander) control measures to the extent of 10 to 12 million Deutsche Marks (approximately \$2,381,000 U.S.) annually since 1956 and the state expenditures have varied according to the number and intensity of outbreaks.

Approved vaccines, produced by two principal commercial concerns, are supplied under contract and adequate amounts are available. West Germany is subject to sporadic outbreaks from internal reservoirs of infection as well as from introduction from affected bordering countries, but tight control measures offer considerable promise for containing the disease in localized areas. 1/ 11/ 16/ 21/ 22/

(2) Bovine tuberculosis -- Tuberculosis, estimated to affect 30 percent or more of adult bovines in postwar years, has been reduced considerably in the past three to four years. A few areas in some states (Lander) have reached an accredited status (i.e., less than 1 percent reactor). Both State and Federal governments have subsidized the tuberculosis eradication schemes which operate according to Federal Veterinary Administration policies. The incentive to slaughter reactors is stimulated by market restrictions placed on products from untested animals and a policy of passing conditionally carcasses showing certain types of lesions judged not likely to be infectious. Conditionally approved carcasses must be processed by sterilization in whole or part, according to decision of the veterinary meat inspector. 1/ 16/ 18/ 19/ 22/

(3) Brucellosis -- Bovine brucellosis is a common infection in many herds in West Germany. Some areas have begun eradication schemes based on segregation of reactors, eventual voluntary slaughter of affected animals and calfhood vaccination.

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The eradication schemes are not as advanced as those for tuberculosis but progress is being made. Considerable research has been undertaken to develop a more adaptable vaccine than Strain 19 currently used. Brucellosis among goat and sheep also exists in certain regions. 1/ 16/ 18/ 19/ 22/ 31/

(4) Rabies -- Rabies is epizootic in wild carnivores in Germany and is a serious problem in the spread of the disease to domesticated animals and man. German veterinary authorities persist in a doctrinaire approach to control of the disease by strict policing of dogs and elimination of strays, and a ban on the use of vaccines which are regarded as potentially capable of becoming virulent in the animal - thus propagating the disease. This unusual attitude is not generally reflected among German veterinarians concerned in preventive immunization against other viral or bacterial diseases. Despite a high percentage of infection among foxes, the infection in a completely susceptible dog population seldom reaches more than 85 cases a year. While the relative incidence in domestic canines is considered low by German authorities, it is improbable that wholly effective control or eradication can be expected without implementing vaccination among dogs and a serious program of reducing the wild life reservoir of infection. 1/ 2/ 4/ 8/ 13/ 22/

(5) Borna disease -- One of the infectious equine encephalomyelitides, Borna disease virus was the first isolated and differs from others in that it is not a causative agent of serious disease in man nor is it likely to be transmitted by insects. The disease causes serious losses among horses in Germany. An effective vaccine has been developed but the organism in nature, which is extremely resistant in the dry state, continues to be a source of infection. 1/ 4/ 8/ 19/ 22/

-5-

CONFIDENTIAL

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(6) Hog cholera -- Hog cholera is widespread in Germany but losses from the disease have been substantially reduced in recent years through intensive immunization with crystal violet type vaccines and progressive control over feeding uncooked garbage. The attenuated embryo or laboratory animal passaged vaccines used elsewhere are not yet popular in Germany. 1/ 2/ 8/ 19/ 22/

(7) Infertility diseases -- A number of infertility diseases or conditions in Germany result in serious economic losses. The solution to these problems are being approached through measures proven effective in Scandinavian countries where accurate records of fertility, investigation of causative factors and supervised chemotherapeutic treatment or sanitary precaution have significantly reduced herd infertility. A great deal of research has been devoted to physiological response of sly breeders to mineral and trace element deficiencies and feed supplements are readily available for corrective treatment. 1/ 2/ 5/ 1/ 8/ 11/

b. Other important animal diseases -- Other important animal diseases are anthrax, equine infectious anemia, fowl pest, blackleg, and swine erysipelas. 1/ 19/ 22/

D. Veterinary medical organization and administration

1. Civilian

a. Organisation -- Two agencies, the Veterinary Division of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forests and the Veterinary Section of the Federal Ministry of the Interior are the central veterinary authorities in West Germany. Although the responsibilities of these two agencies may overlap at various points, particular functions are generally quite well defined. The functions of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forests are as follows:



Fig. 1

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1. Regulation and organization of veterinary services.
2. Veterinary jurisprudence.
3. Scientific research.
4. Relations with foreign veterinary administrations.
5. Liaison with International veterinary organizations.
6. Coordination of epizootic control.
7. Epizootic reporting.
8. Epizootic and meat inspection regulations.
9. Coordination of livestock and livestock product export-import health measures.
10. Supervision over production of veterinary medicaments.
11. Veterinary measures related to selection, care, and feeding of animals.
12. Supervision of disposal of diseased animal carcasses.
13. Protection of animal species.
14. Horseshoeing.

The functions of the Ministry of the Interior are as follows:

1. Sanitary transport of foodstuffs.
2. Regulation and organization of veterinary food inspection.

These broad responsibilities of the two ministries provide firm control over most veterinary affairs in West Germany.

The Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forests supervises four Federal veterinary research institutes and also exercises advisory control over two federally subsidized research institutes and federally subsidized institutes of the four veterinary faculties.

The Federal Ministry of the Interior has jurisdiction over the Federal Health Office, which maintains a veterinary research department at the Max von Pettenkofer Institute in Berlin (52-31N - 13-24E).

The veterinary administrations of the states of Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia, are under direction of the State Ministries of Food, Agriculture and Forests, and those of the states of Hesse, Rhine-Palatinate, Baden-Wurttemberg and Bavaria under direction of the State Ministries of Interior. This arrangement is a result of organization of government functions prior to pre-World War I unification of Germany. The state governments are responsible for execution of veterinary measures through direction of a veterinary officer in administrative

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regions (Regierungsbezirke). Administrative regions are divided into urban and rural districts (Kreise), each serviced by one or more official veterinarians or practicing veterinarians. Each state has at least one State Veterinary Center conducting disease investigations as well as clinical and diagnostic work. There are a total of 22 of these centers in the Federal Republic. In addition, Chambers of Agriculture in some northern states have veterinary centers under official supervision which fulfill similar veterinary functions.

The Saarland, a part of Germany since 1959, is a small industrial state; its veterinary services are under the direction of the State Ministry of Commerce, Traffic, Food and Agriculture.

In the independent cities of Berlin, Bremen and Hamburg, veterinary administrations are sections of the Health Service.

Virtually all veterinary matters concerned with food inspection, epizootic diseases, import and export, animal health regulations and disease reporting, are either subsidized or totally supported by federal, state, or metropolitan public funds. Veterinary research and education are liberally supported by public funds and receive some endowments from commercial and private sources.

During a five-year period, 1954-1958, an expenditure of \$24,000,000 was made for control of epizootic diseases by the Federal government. No figures are available for counterpart expenditures by the states for these programs but the total is substantially more than the federal support.

1/ 2/ 10/ 11/ 12/ 13/ 19/ 24/ 26/.

b. Legal controls

(1) Licensure -- Successful completion of an approved veterinary curriculum and passing of an extensive examination are required for the degree of

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graduate veterinarian (approbierter Tierarzt). For the actual license (Bestallung) to practice veterinary medicine, which is granted by the Union of Veterinary Chambers, an additional six months' work with a practicing veterinarian is required. 1/ 2/ 26/

(2) Quarantine -- Animal quarantine is authorized by the Epizootic Disease Legislation (Tierseuchengesetz), first enacted in 1909. Quarantine of meat and meat products is covered by the Meat Inspection Legislation (Fleischbeschauengesetz) of 1900. The Food Legislation (Lebensmittelgesetz) of 1927 governs the quarantine and sanitation of food products, while the quarantine and sanitation of milk and milk products falls under the Milk Legislation (Milchgesetz), originally enacted in 1930.

Each of the above legislations has been periodically amended in years subsequent to original enactment. From time to time the regulations of the respective legislations are collated and published as unofficial documents. New orders pertaining to the legislations are published in official legal journals prior to being implemented. 1/ 2/ 10/ 11/ 12/

(3) Inspection -- Legal controls for meat and dairy food inspection, distribution and handling in Germany are modern and adequate. Provision is made for detailed bacteriological and chemical analysis of such material at all levels to support judgment of meat and dairy inspectors in disposition of livestock products. Economic pressure, which in immediate postwar years influenced conditional passing of suspect disease affected foodstuffs, have been resolved and current conditional approval of such material offers reasonable assurance that it will be rendered innocuous by approved processing procedure. Particular emphasis, through required detailed laboratory investigation, is placed on examination of imported and internally produced dairy or livestock products suspected of being sources of food poisoning organisms or

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toxins. Official testing of veterinary vaccines and other biological products is conducted for the Federal Veterinary Administration by the Paul Ehrlich Institute at Frankfurt-on-Main (50-09N - 8-41E). 1/ 2/ 10/ 11/ 12/ 26/

c. Professional veterinary medical organization -- Each state and independent city has a Veterinary Chamber (Tierärztekammer), established by legislation which requires enrollment by all active veterinarians within its jurisdiction. The chambers, together with the four veterinary faculties and three non-scientific veterinary societies, form the Union of Veterinary Chambers of West Germany (Deutsche Tierärzteschaft), which is the professional body governing conduct and licensing of members. The Union of Veterinary Chambers maintains a council in which each state chamber, city chamber, faculty and society have one or more votes, depending on size of their respective memberships.

Fig. 2

The following societies are entirely scientific in character:

1. German Scientific Veterinary Society (Deutsche Veterinarmedizinische Gesellschaft).
2. Berlin Scientific Veterinary Society (Berliner Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Tierärzte).
3. Munich Veterinary Society (Münchener Tierärztliche Gesellschaft).
4. Stuttgart Veterinary Society (Stuttgarter Tierärztliche Gesellschaft).
5. Veterinary Section of the Upper Hesse Society for Nature and Medicine (Oberhessische Gesellschaft für Natur- und Heilkunde, Veterinarmedizinische Abteilung).
6. Frankfurt Veterinary Review Society (Frankfurter Referierabende).
7. German Society for Breeding-Science (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zuchtungskunde).

1/ 2/ 26/

d. Veterinary research -- German veterinary research is outstanding and rapidly expanding. It covers virtually every phase of research undertaken in the more advanced countries and progressive achievements have been made in the fields of virology, food hygiene, histo-pathology and chemotherapeutics. (See Section 76.)

Physio-chemical studies of viral structure underway at Tübingen are comparable to or advanced beyond similar work in other European countries and the United

1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5/ 6/ 7/ 8/ 16/ 24/ 26/
States.

-10-

CONFIDENTIAL

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f. Emergency veterinary services -- West Germany is capable of promptly mobilizing its entire veterinary services and facilities under central authority to cope with serious animal disease problems. Foot-and-mouth disease, a few years ago a serious threat to animal production, has been brought under effective control through such action. A major contribution to development of this capability has been the immediate post-World War II Marshall Plan assistance for rehabilitation of veterinary facilities. 1/ 2/ 16/ 24/ 27/

2. Military (veterinary)

The German Bundeswehr (Federal Armed Force) maintains a small veterinary corps still in a formative stage. The proposed final strength of the corps, commanded by a colonel (Oberfeldveterinar), will be 18 to 24 commissioned officers. It is planned to have a veterinary officer in each military district. The primary function of the veterinary corps is the inspection of food products; however, a few officers are assigned to the animal transport unit of the Alpine Brigade in Mittenwald (47-26N - 11-15E). The army maintains a small number of saddle horses, which are under the care of civilian contract-veterinarians. 2/

E. Veterinary manpower

There are currently 7,847 veterinarians in the Federal Republic, including Berlin. They are distributed as follows:

In private practice	5,363
Veterinary officers	1,049
Regular inspectors of slaughterhouses	529
Officials attached to Government Institutes	384
Veterinarians employed in trade or industry	94
Veterinarians employed by agricultural organizations	112
University professors	80
Assistants at universities or advanced schools	121
Not practicing (including retired veterinarians)	115

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In addition to the veterinarians engaged in regular and parttime meat inspection, over 2,000 specially trained lay assistants are employed. Each veterinary laboratory and research institute employs a considerable number of technical experts in such allied fields as bacteriology, biology and chemistry, in addition to a considerable number of special laboratory assistants.

Veterinarians are well distributed throughout the country, according to service requirements. Few countries in Europe have a higher ratio of veterinarians to livestock population than Germany and even fewer as equitable a distribution in rural areas or in veterinary public health functions.

The Federal Republic has three excellent veterinary faculties attached to universities and one autonomous veterinary college. They are located as follows:

1. Veterinary Faculty at the Free University of Berlin (52-31N - 13-24E).
2. Veterinary Faculty at the Justus Liebig University at Giessen (50-35N - 8-39E).
3. Veterinary Faculty at the Ludwig Maximilian University at Munich (48-42N - 13-28E).
4. Veterinary College at Hannover (52-22N - 9-43E).

Three and a half years of preparatory study are required for admission to the veterinary course covering nine semesters. Six months' post-examination work with a practicing veterinarian is required for authorization to practice. A doctorate in veterinary medicine generally requires three years additional work and submission of a satisfactory thesis.

The currently existing veterinary educational institutions, all offering uniform curricula, are capable of providing required veterinary personnel. ^{1/2/5/8/16/25/26/}

F. Veterinary medical facilities -- Facilities for veterinary research, laboratory diagnosis, clinical investigation and biological production and distribution are

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adequate and well situated geographically in West Germany. A close collaboration exists between research diagnostic and production institutes and practical use is made of laboratories in slaughterhouses and rural districts to coordinate disease reporting and investigation. Many of the commercial biological firms maintain close working relations with Institutes of Veterinary Faculties and other laboratories.

In addition to the four main Federal Veterinary Research Institutes,

1. Federal Research Institute on Animal Viruses, Tubingen (48-32N - 9-03E);
2. Federal Institute of Experimental Research for the Dairy Industry, Kiel (54-20N - 10-10E);
3. Federal Institute of Research for the Meat Industries, Kulmbach (50-06N - 11-27E);
4. Federal Institute of Research in the Rearing of Small Animals, Celle (52-37N - 10-05E);

the Max von Pettenkofer Institute of the Federal Health Office, Berlin-Dahlem, the Max Planck Institute of Virology at Tubingen and the Paul Ehrlich Institute at Frankfurt-on-Main, cooperate in Federal Veterinary Administration programs.

The Regional State Veterinary Centers, twenty-two in number, provide both clinical and ambulatory facilities to rural areas as do the clinical departments of the Veterinary Faculties of the Universities.

Essentially all veterinary medicaments are produced by commercial firms and several of these maintain experimental farms for demonstration purposes. 1/2/3/5/8/16/19/20/21/

C. Veterinary medical supplies and materials -- Veterinary medical, pharmaceutical, biological, antibiotic, scientific instruments and surgical supplies, are readily available at nominal prices through both commercial and government subsidized outlets in Germany. In addition to supplying internal requirements in all these categories, West Germany is an important exporter of such items. Commercial research has paid close attention to particular requirements of specific foreign regions and adapted segments of production to satisfy special foreign markets. 1/ 3/ 5/ 8/ 21/ 32/

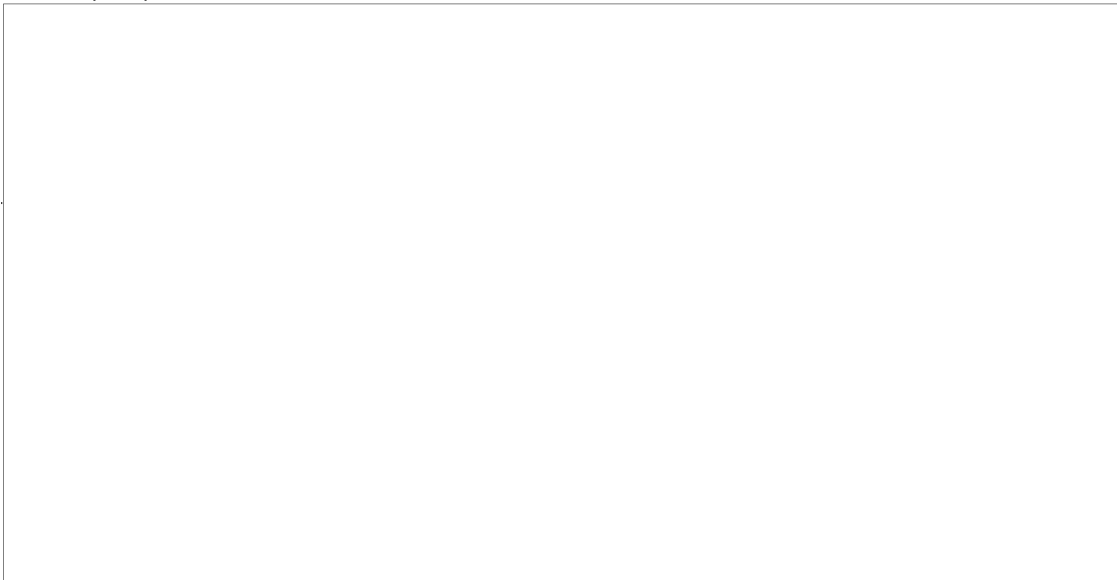


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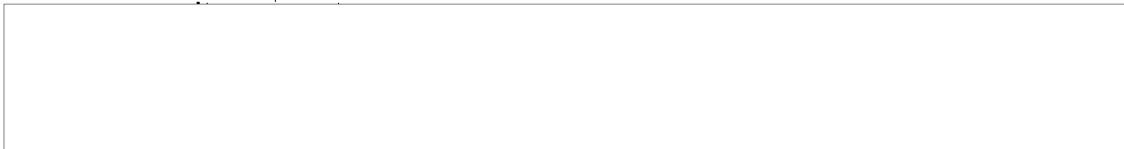
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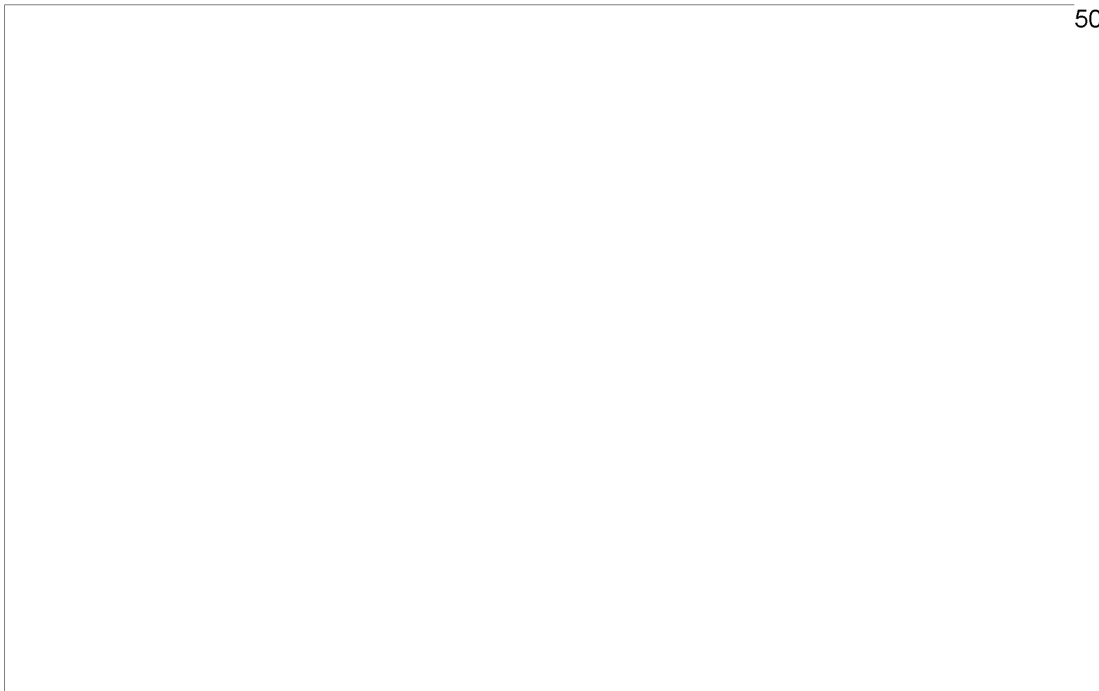
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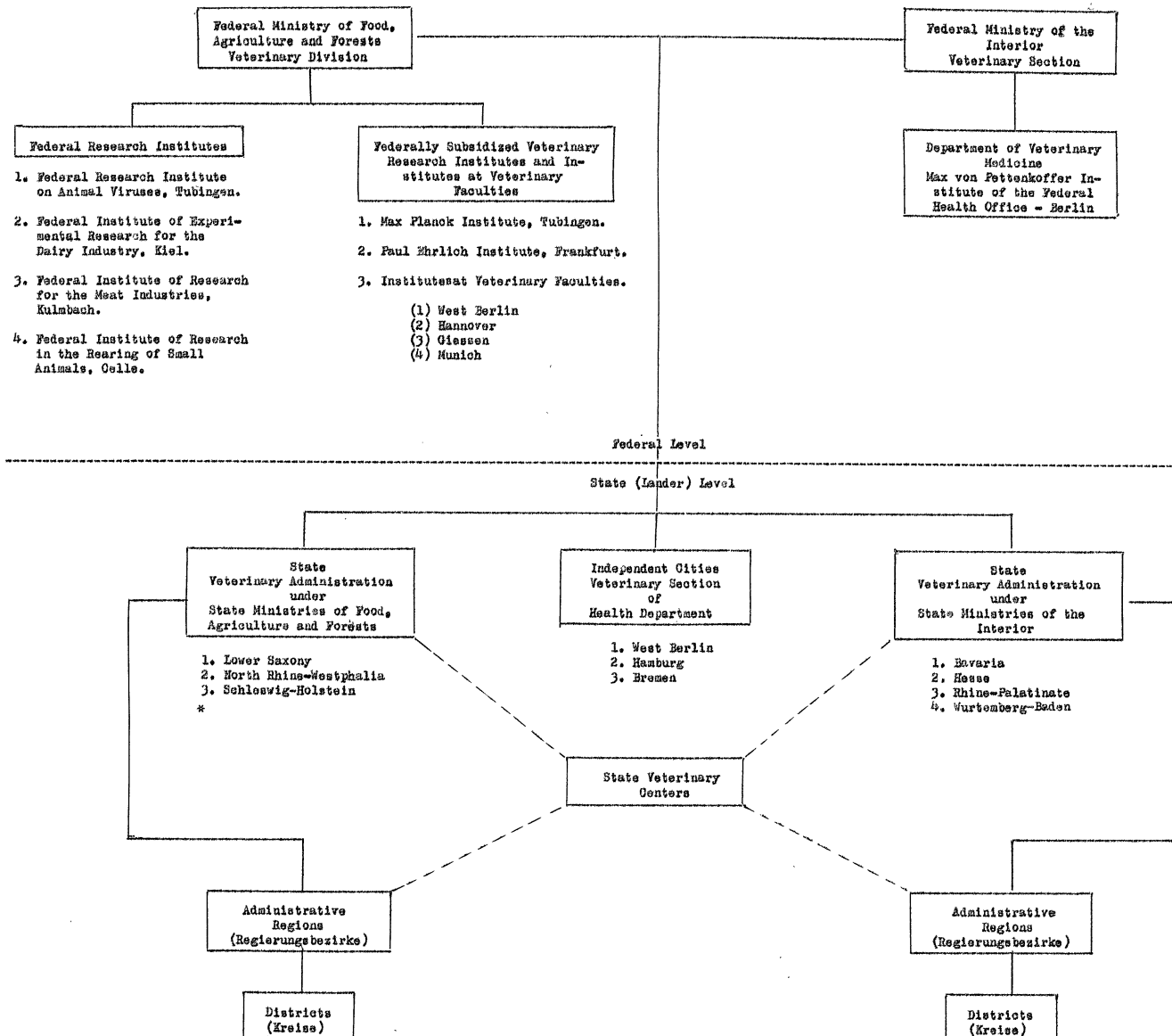
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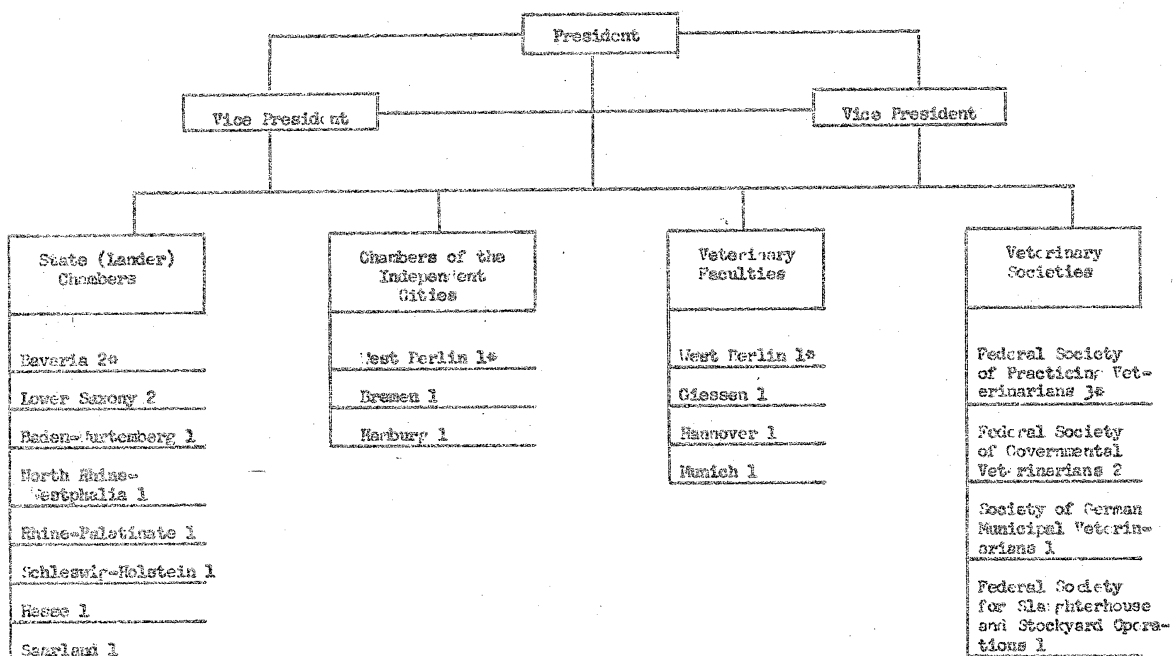
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Figure 1: Organization of Veterinary Services, West Germany - 1960.



*Veterinary services in the Saarland (incorporated as a Land in 1959) are responsible to the State Ministry of Commerce, Traffic, Food and Agriculture.

Figure 2: Organization of the Union of Veterinary Chambers of West Germany (Deutsche Tierärzteschaft) - 1960.



Note: The figures denote the number of votes in the Council of the Union of Veterinary Chambers.

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